His Son trod, and in all things render glory and praise to His name." "Dearest brother, be a lover of virtue with holy patience, and go often to confession, which will help you to bear your burdens. I tell you that God will use His benignity and mercy, and will reward you for every burden that you have borne for love of Him."[1] But, presently, a coldness arose between Benin-casa and those he had left behind in Siena ; in his tribulation, he thought that his mother ought to have helped him, while she, apparently, felt more in need of aid from him. Catherine naturally took Lapa's part, and held her brother ungrateful:—

" You must remember to correct yourself of your ingratitude and churlishness, in the matter of the duty you owe your mother, to whom you are bound by the commandment of God. As to your not having fulfilled the obligation of helping her, I hold you excused, because you have not been able; but, even if you had been able, I do not know that you would have done it, seeing that you have been niggardly to her even in your words. In your ingratitude you have not considered how she bore you and gave you suck, nor all the care she has had of you and of all the others. If you tell me that she has not been tender to us, I say that it is not true, for she has been so tender to you, and to the other, that it costs her dear. But, even if it were true, you would be in her debt, and not she in yours. She took no flesh from you, but gave you hers. I pray you to correct this and your other defects, and pardon me my rudeness, for, if I did not love your soul, I would not say what I say to you." [2]

A little later, she sent a beautiful and tender letter of counsel to Benincasa's daughter Nanna, *sua nifote verginella,* on her taking the veil, interpreting for her the parable of the ten Virgins.[3] Afterwards, when her influence extended as far as Florence, she was able to help her brothers materially, by interesting the powerful Guelf politician, Niccolo Soderini, on their behalf.

Rome itself had seen but little of the Sovereign Pontiff during these few years. His health had been steadily failing, and he

[1] Letters 10 and 20 (249 and 251). [2] Letter 18 (250).
[8] Letter 23 (356).